

The ... length of the curve  
 curve in parametrization  
 of the curve is called the  
 arc length (or total length of  
 a curve). Then that you make the  
 curve have unit speed

Ex. Reparametrize  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 3\sin(t), 2t, 3\cos(t) \rangle$  by arc length (from  $t=0$ ).

Sol: First, we compute the arc length of the function

$$\begin{aligned}
 s(t) &= \int_0^t \|\vec{r}'(q)\| dq & \vec{r}'(t) &= \langle 3\cos(t), 2, -3\sin(t) \rangle \\
 & & \|\vec{r}'(t)\| &= \sqrt{9\cos^2(t) + 4 + 9\sin^2(t)} \\
 &= \int_0^t \sqrt{13} dq & &= \sqrt{9+4} = \sqrt{13} \\
 & & & \\
 &= \left[ \sqrt{13} q \right]_0^t & &= \sqrt{13}t
 \end{aligned}$$

$$So \ s(t) = \sqrt{13}t$$

$$t = \frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}$$

Finally, our reparametrized function is  $\vec{r}(s) = \vec{r}(t(s))$   
 $= \langle 3\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right), \frac{2s}{\sqrt{13}}, 3\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right) \rangle$

NB: For the curve above,  $\vec{r}'(s) = \langle \frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right), \frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}, -\frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right) \rangle$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore \text{the magnitude of } \vec{r}'(s) &= \sqrt{\left(\frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right)\right)^2 + \left(\frac{2}{\sqrt{13}}\right)^2 + \left(-\frac{3}{\sqrt{13}}\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right)\right)^2} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{9}{13}\cos^2\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right) + \frac{4}{13} + \frac{9}{13}\sin^2\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{13}}\right)} \\
 &= \sqrt{\frac{9}{13} + \frac{4}{13}} = \sqrt{\frac{13}{13}} = 1 \quad \text{for all } s
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, this reparametrized curve has unit speed. In general, a curve parameterized by arc length always has unit speed

Now, (in 3D physics)

Ex. Find the velocity and acceleration of  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 2^t, t^2, \ln(6t) \rangle$  at  $t=1$

Sol:  $\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t)$

$$= \langle \ln(2) e^{t \ln(2)}, 2t, \frac{1}{6t} \rangle = \langle \ln(2) 2^t, 2t, \frac{1}{6t} \rangle$$

So at  $t=1$ ,  $\vec{v} = \langle \ln(2) 2^1, 2(1), \frac{1}{6(1)} \rangle$

$$= \langle 2 \ln(2), 2, \frac{1}{6} \rangle$$

$$\vec{a}(t) = \vec{r}''(t) = \vec{v}'(t) = \langle \ln(2)^2 e^{t \ln(2)}, 2, -\frac{1}{36t^2} \rangle$$
$$= \langle \ln(2)^2 2^t, 2, -\frac{1}{36t^2} \rangle$$

$$\vec{a}(1) = \langle \ln(2)^2 (2(1)), 2, -\frac{1}{36(1)^2} \rangle$$

$$= \langle 2 \ln(2)^2, 2, -\frac{1}{36} \rangle$$

Ex. Find the velocity and position functions of the curve with  $\vec{a}(t) = \langle \sin(t), 2\cos(t), 6t \rangle$  and  $\vec{v}(0) = \langle 0, 0, -1 \rangle, \vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, -1, -4 \rangle$

Sol:  $\vec{v}(t) = \int \vec{a}(t) dt$

$$= \langle -\cos(t), 2\sin(t), 3t^2 \rangle + \vec{c}$$

$$\text{Now } \langle 0, 0, -1 \rangle = \vec{v}(0) = \langle -\cos 0, 2\sin 0, 3(0)^2 \rangle + \vec{c}$$
$$= \langle -1, 0, 0 \rangle + \vec{c}$$

$$\therefore \vec{c} = \langle 0, 0, -1 \rangle - \langle -1, 0, 0 \rangle = \langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle$$

$$\therefore \vec{v} = \langle -\cos(t), 2\sin(t), 3t^2 \rangle + \langle 1, 0, -1 \rangle$$
$$= \langle 1 - \cos(t), 2\sin(t), 3t^2 - 1 \rangle$$

Now  $\vec{r}(t) = \int \vec{v}(t) dt$

$$= \langle t - \sin(t), -2\cos(t), t^3 - t \rangle + \vec{c}$$

$$\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0 - \sin 0, -2\cos 0, 0^3 - 0 \rangle + \vec{c}$$

$$\langle 0, 1, -4 \rangle = \langle 0, -2, 0 \rangle + \vec{c}$$

$$\vec{c} = \langle 0, 3, -4 \rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle t - \sin(t), 3 - \cos(t), t^3 - t - 4 \rangle$$

Ex. When is the speed of particle with position function  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^2, 5t, t^2 - 16t \rangle$  at a minimum?

Sol:  $\vec{r}'(t) = \langle 2t, 5, 2t - 16 \rangle$

$$|\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{2t^2 + 5^2 + (2t - 16)^2}$$

$$f(t) = \sqrt{11t^2 + 25 + 4t^2 - 64t + 256} \\ = \sqrt{8t^2 - 64t + 281}$$

$$\therefore f'(t) = \frac{1}{2} (8t^2 - 64t + 281)^{-1/2} (16t - 64) \\ = 8t - 32 \\ (8t^2 - 64t + 281)^{1/2}$$

Note that  $64^2 - 4 \cdot 8 \cdot 281 = 2^{12} - 25 \cdot 281 = 2^{12} - 25 \cdot 2^8 = 2^{12} - 2^8 \cdot 2^8 = 0$

$\therefore 8t^2 - 64t + 281 = 0$  has no real solutions

$\therefore$  the only critical point of this function is at  $8t - 32 = 0$  i.e.  $t = 4$

Now applying the 1<sup>st</sup> deriv test, if  $f'(t) < 0$  on  $t < 4$  and  $f'(t) > 0$  on  $t > 4$ , then  $t = 4$  corresponds to a minimum

$$\begin{array}{c} \searrow \quad \nearrow \\ - \quad + \\ \hline t=4 \quad f' \end{array}$$

Now  $f'(0) = \frac{-32}{\sqrt{281}} < 0$  and  $f'(5) = \frac{8}{\sqrt{+}} > 0$

Hence the particle is slowest at  $t = 4$

Recall: If  $f(t) > 0$  for all  $t$  and  $f$  is diff. for all  $t$ , then  $f$  is minimized exactly when  $(f(t))^2$  is minimized

Alt. Sol:  $f(t) = |\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{8t^2 - 64t + 281}$  as before

Now we minimize  $(f(t))^2 = 8t^2 - 64t + 281$

As before,  $8t^2 - 64t + 281 \neq 0$  for all  $t$

Now  $(f(t))^2 = g(t)$  is minimized via the 1<sup>st</sup> deriv test

$$g'(t) = 16t - 64$$

$$g'(t) = 0 \text{ if } t = 4$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \searrow \quad \nearrow \\ - \quad + \\ \hline 0 \quad t=4 \quad 5 \end{array}$$

$\therefore$  the particle speed is minimized at  $t = 4$

Ex. A ball is kicked at angle  $60^\circ$  above ground. If it lands 90m away, at what speed was it thrown? Accel due to  $g_{\text{air}} = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$

Sol:

$$\vec{a}(t) = \langle 0, -9.8 \rangle$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = |\vec{v}(0)| \langle \cos \frac{\pi}{3}, \sin \frac{\pi}{3} \rangle = \left\langle \frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right\rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \vec{v}(t) &= \int \vec{a}(t) dt \\ &= \langle \alpha, -9.8t + \beta \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = \frac{c}{2} \langle 1, \sqrt{3} \rangle$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} \alpha = \frac{c}{2} \\ \beta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c \end{cases} \quad \therefore \vec{v}(t) = \left\langle \frac{c}{2}, -9.8t + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct \right\rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}(t) &= \int \vec{v}(t) dt \\ &= \left\langle \frac{c}{2}t + \gamma, -4.9t^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct + \delta \right\rangle \end{aligned}$$

Now at some time  $t_0$  we have

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle = \left\langle \frac{c}{2}t_0 + \gamma, -4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct_0 + \delta \right\rangle$$

\*We may assume  $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$ \*

Now notice with our assumption  $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$  we obtain  $\langle \gamma, \delta \rangle = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}(t_0) &= \left\langle \frac{c}{2}t_0, -4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct_0 \right\rangle \quad \therefore \frac{c}{2}t_0 = 90 \text{ so } t_0 = \frac{180}{c} \\ &\therefore -4.9\left(\frac{180}{c}\right)^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Ex. A ball is kicked at an angle of  $60^\circ$  to the horizontal. It lands 10m away. What is the speed with which it was kicked?

Sol.

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle 0, -9.8t \rangle$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = |\vec{v}(0)| \langle \cos \frac{\pi}{3}, \sin \frac{\pi}{3} \rangle = \left\langle \frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right\rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle$$

$$\therefore \vec{v}(t) = \langle \vec{v}(t_0) \rangle t \\ = \langle \alpha, -9.8t + \beta \rangle$$

$$\vec{v}(0) = \frac{c}{2} \langle 1, \sqrt{3} \rangle$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} \alpha = \frac{c}{2} \\ \beta = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c \end{cases} \quad \therefore \vec{v}(t) = \left\langle \frac{c}{2}, -9.8t + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct \right\rangle$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \int \vec{v}(t) dt \\ = \left\langle \frac{c}{2}t + \gamma, -4.9t^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct + \delta \right\rangle$$

Now at some time  $t_0$  we have

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \langle 90, 0 \rangle = \left\langle \frac{c}{2}t_0 + \gamma, -4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct_0 + \delta \right\rangle$$

\*We may assume  $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$ \*

Now notice with our assumption  $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 0, 0 \rangle$  we

obtain  $\langle \gamma, \delta \rangle = 0$

$$\vec{r}(t_0) = \left\langle \frac{c}{2}t_0, -4.9t_0^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}ct_0 \right\rangle \quad \therefore \frac{c}{2}t_0 = 90 \text{ so } t_0 = \frac{180}{c}$$

$$\therefore -4.9 \left( \frac{180}{c} \right)^2 + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}c = 0$$